Twilight Committee

MAY 0 9 1983

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE
MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT 05753

Office of the President

May 6, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO THE MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE COMMUNITY

I write to express appreciation to Professor John Spencer and his several colleagues who worked diligently and thoughtfully to produce what has come to be known in the community as the "Twilight Committee Report." Other members of the committee were: Rudolf K. Haerle, Jr., Arlinda Ardister, Tracey Thompson, Patrick McCormick '84, Leroy Nesbitt '82, and Alan Wagman '82. The Committee's report has now been the subject of discussion in student, faculty, and trustee meetings and has provided the vehicle for our community to engage in a period of introspection about a subject of great importance to all of us.

In 1968, following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Middlebury College committed itself to an expansion of opportunities for minority education. The purpose of the Twilight Committee Report and the subsequent discussion about it have been to assess our progress over the past fifteen years. In doing so, we have sought to renew the College's commitment to making special efforts to provide educational opportunities for minority students and also to increase the number of minority faculty and administrative staff. In that spirit, the faculty adopted the following motion at its meeting on April 4, 1983:

> "The faculty reaffirms the College's commitment to the education of minority students set out in the 1968 Martin Luther King Committee Report and endorses the Twilight Committee aims of attracting a larger number of minority faculty. The College's Provost shall report to the faculty in March of each year. He shall describe the steps the College has taken to implement the recommendations of the Twilight Committee Report and the progress made during the previous year."

I wish to note here that the Twilight Committee Report was also the subject of discussion by the Board of Trustees at its meetings on March 10-12, 1983. While no formal vote was taken at that time, there was a strong consensus that the College must continue its commitment in this area, and the Board encouraged the President to continue to work with the faculty and other College constituencies in this regard.

Our discussions within the College community of the issues addressed by the Twilight Committee have, in my opinion, been constructive and useful. Most of all, the Committee's report has made it possible for these issues to be engaged in a serious, constructive, and sustained fashion. All of the recommendations in the report have been given careful consideration and many are being implemented. The Admissions Office has begun its recruitment program for the Class of 1988 with the Twilight Committee Report in mind, and we anticipate that adequate financial aid funds will be available for all students who qualify for both admission and aid.

In addition, the College is firmly committed to continuing the Pre-enrollment Program, and those in charge of it are being guided by the proposals in the report. The College also will continue its efforts to recruit minority faculty and staff. How to pursue this objective has been the subject of much discussion. Finally, it is my hope that the Faculty will give serious attention to the curriculum recommendations in the Twilight Report.

It is important for those within the College community and outside of it to know that Middlebury has recommitted itself to the goal of participating fully in our society's efforts to make the very finest educational opportunities available to all of its citizens.

OR:mr